

**MINUTES
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting was held on Monday, January 23, 2006, at the Darien Town Hall. Donna Rajczewski, Town Clerk, called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m.

The Moderator, Karen Armour, assumed the Chair.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were present:

From District I, there were 8 members present, 3 absent.
From District II, there were 13 members present, 3 absent.
From District III, there were 13 members present, 5 absent.
From District IV, there were 12 members present, 4 absent.
From District V, there were 14 members present, 2 absent.
From District VI, there were 10 members present, 5 absent.

The absentees from District I were: LaVecchia, Puzyk, Sommer
The absentees from District II were: Maguire, Perticone, Rudnick.
The absentees from District III were: Alliegro, DeVita, Hunter, Lamendola, Martens.
The absentees from District IV were: Cameron, Gebauer, Kemp, Pratt.
The absentees from District V were: D'Arinzo, Van der Kieft
The absentees from District VI were: Baldwin, Berl, Carroll, Kominek, Weismiller.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

**** THE AGENDA WAS ACCEPTED BY UNIVERSAL CONSENT.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2005 STATE OF THE TOWN
MEETING**

**** THE MINUTES WERE ACCEPTED BY UNIVERSAL CONSENT.**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL DECEMBER 19, 2005 MEETING

**** THE MINUTES WERE ACCEPTED BY UNIVERSAL CONSENT.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Moderator reported that the "Affordable Housing" discussion had been postponed and that two programs were to be held at the DCA, one on February 1 and the other on February 13. Flyers are available for those interested in further information.

First Selectman Evonne Klein then reported on the recent storm, her report is attached.

06-1

**CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHAPTER 17 OF THE
DARIEN CODE, WHICH PROVIDES TAX RELIEF AND TAX DEFERRAL FOR THE
ELDERLY AND DISABLED**

**** PHILIP WEYHE, DISTRICT IV, CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY, MOVED:**

WHEREAS, Chapter 17 of the Darien Code provides tax relief and tax deferral for the elderly and disabled; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to review and update this legislation on a regular basis.

NOW THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED THAT the RTM hereby amends and approves for the Town of Darien its program for tax relief and tax deferral for the elderly and disabled pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes for eligible residents of the Town of Darien; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to amend the maximum qualifying income for said plan to be that incorporated in the State of Connecticut tax relief guidelines in effect on the date of an application for tax relief or tax deferral plus Nine Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$9,000.00); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to amend the ordinance to create a new benefit for applicants whose qualifying income is up to Twenty Thousand and 00/100 (\$20,000.00) Dollars above the Town limit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to incorporate these conceptual changes as more particularly set out in the draft ordinance attached hereto and made part hereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to amend the effective date of said ordinance to February 1, 2006, and it shall remain in effect until the effective date of the next general reassessment after 2006.

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Mr. Weyhe indicated his committee's total support of the resolution reporting a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed.

Seth Morton, District III, Chairman of Finance & Budget, read that committee's report (attached). Peter Hovell, Chairman of the Board of Finance, said that Mr. Morton had already covered much of his report but did want to state that the BOF is in favor of the resolution. The Board would like to modify and broaden the scope to include more eligible residents as the additional cost to the Town is negligible. When passed the resolution would go into effect February 1.

Alexander Liu, a member of the Commission on Aging read the Commission's report submitted by Chairman Jennifer Geddes in support of the resolution. (attached)

**** ITEM 06-1 CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 68 IN FAVOR, 1 OPOSED.**

06-2

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHAPTER 33 OF THE DARIEN CODE, WHICH CONCERNS PARKS & RECREATION PROCEDURES

Mrs. Armour announced that the vote on Item 06-2 was to be postponed as the TGS & A Committee and the Parks & Recreation Committee (primary and secondary) were not on the same page with regard to changes proposed.

Speaking for TGS & A, Chairman Joe Warren of District II presented background on ordinance changes in general, and went on to say that the Parks & Recreation Commission had some concerns about housekeeping issues and had been trying to streamline the ordinances contained in Chapter 33. TGS & A has been trying to rid the entire Code of assorted fee schedules, which require the approval of the RTM. In the case of Parks & Rec, his Committee felt it would help with the process to eliminate much of the

applicable chapter, and concentrate on section 1 (Chapter 33-1). The Parks & Recreation Commission would then be required to put the rules and regulations it passes in a document format to be maintained in the Town Clerk's Office, with copies available elsewhere. It would be the responsibility of the Commission to update those regulations as necessary. Any such changes would always be effective October 1 of any given year. The Police Department had weighed in on the issue questioning the enforceability of Rules & Regulations as opposed to Ordinances in the Code. TGS & A felt that by using the October 1 date, enforceability would not be a problem. This position was supported by a letter from Town Counsel that was attached to the Warning for tonight's meeting.

Cheryl Russell, District V, Chair of the Parks & Recreation Committee presented background from her Committee's point of view. Back in November, she had requested input for any P & R Ordinance change from the TGS & A committee, the Police Department and Town Counsel. As Town Counsel was the only one to respond, her Committee was unable to pursue any appropriate discussion in a timely manner. Her concerns are two-fold. First, if the Parks & Recreation Commission is to make all the Rules & Regulations, what input/approval will be needed from the Parks & Recreation Committee, which according to ordinance, is charged with supporting and advising the Commission. Second, she felt an extra burden would be placed on the Director of Parks & Recreation to ensure that Rules & Regulations are written and updated. Both the Committee and the Commission have formed sub-committees to consider further any possible code changes.

TGS & A maintains that the change is desirable, but item 06-2 is postponed to the March meeting, by which time it is expected the Parks and Recreation Commission subcommittee will have had time to review the issue.

(06-3)

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON A REQUEST FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR UNANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES

Item 06-3 was withdrawn from consideration.

With no further business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Donna E. Rajczewski
Acting Secretary

APPENDIX

<u>DISTRICT I</u>	<u>06-1</u>
Gartland	yes
Grimes	yes
Ko	yes
LaVecchia	absent
Pegler	yes
Price	yes
Puzyk	absent
Schneider	yes
Scudder	yes
Sickinger	yes
Sommer	absent

<u>DISTRICT II</u>	<u>06-1</u>
Bacon	yes
Bolotin	yes
Grogan	yes
Howe	yes
Johnson	yes
Magida	yes
Maguire	absent
Perticone	absent
Rae	yes
Rudnick	absent
Sheehan	yes
Sullivan	yes
Thorne	yes
Warren	yes
Warren Jr.	yes
Weicker	yes

<u>DISTRICT III</u>	<u>05-17</u>
Alliegro	absent
Bayne, C.	yes
Bayne, D.	yes
Bosee	yes
Coyle	yes
DeRocco	yes
DeVita	absent
Duffy	yes
Helms	yes
Hunter	absent
Lamendola	absent
Lehan	yes
Maroney	yes
Martens	absent
Moore	yes
Morton	yes
Smith	yes
Young	yes

<u>DISTRICT IV</u>	<u>05-17</u>
Artinian	yes
Cameron	absent
Davis	yes
Gebauer	absent
Kemp	absent
Maloof	yes
Millar	no
Morrison	yes
Pontius	yes
Pratt	absent
Rayhill	yes
Rycenga	yes
Savage	yes
Schoonmaker	yes
Stark	yes
Weyhe	yes

<u>DISTRICT V</u>	<u>05-17</u>
Adiletta	yes
Balian	yes
Camuti	yes
Dailey	yes
D'Arinzo	absent
Davis	yes
Doying	yes
Galvin	yes
Gidseg	yes
Normile	yes
Orr	yes
Patrick	yes
Russell	yes
Stegelmann	yes
Van Der Kieft	absent
Wenger	yes

<u>DISTRICT VI</u>	<u>05-17</u>
Andrew	yes
Armour	did not vote
Baldwin	absent
Berl	absent
Carroll	absent
Conologue	yes
Fingar	yes
Kominek	yes
Pfeiffer	yes
Plehaty	yes
Riccardo	yes
Swenson	yes
Tamme	yes
Weismiller	absent
Whitehead	yes